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Message Text

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62
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 228436

STADIS//////////////////////////////
FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFELE FROM SEELYE

FOLLOWING REPEAT MONROVIA 6570 ACTION SECSTATE SEP 14.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 6570

STADIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LI

SUBJ: TOLBERT'S VIEWS ON UPCOMING STATE VISIT

REF: MONROVIA 6551

1. FOLLOWING A LATE AFTERNOON MEETING ON MONDAY, SEPT 13, ON OTHER MATTERS, PRESIDENT TOLBERT ASKED ME TO STAY TO DISCUSS THE IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHED TO THE UPCOMING STATE VISIT--FIRST, FOR THE U.S.; SECOND, FOR AFRICA, AND THIRD, FOR LIBERIA. TOLBERT SAID THAT HE ENJOYED THE FULL CONFIDENCE OF HIS AFRICAN BROTHERS, CITING SPECIFICALLY SEKOU TOURE AND GENERAL OBASANJO AND SAID THEY WERE WAITING TO SEE HOW THE USG TREATS ONE OF ITS "FRIENDS." TOLBERT FEARED THAT IF HE WERE NOT ACCORDED "SPECIAL CONSIDERAT-ION" (READ: THAT WHICH THE U.S. ACCORDS TO ITS EUROPEAN ALLIES)
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HIS USEFULNESS TO THE U.S. IN INTERNATIONAL FORA WOULD BE BADLY

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ERODED. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD BE SEEKING UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT FOR HIS COUNTRY AND HIMSELF SO THAT HE COULD PERFORM EVEN GREATER SERVICE IN BEHALF OF USG INITIATIVES IN AFRICA AND HE THIRD WORLD. TOLBERT, AS HE HAD DONE DURING THE EARLIER MORNING MEETING, WAS VISIBLY CONCERNED THAT THE VISIT MIGHT ONLY RESULT IN PLAT-ITUDES AND SOCIAL EVENTS.

2. HE RECALLED THAT WITHOUT USG SUPPORT OF LIBERIAN INDEPENDENCE IN THE 19TH CENTURY, INDEPENDENCE FOR THE NATIONS OF AFRICA SURROUNDING LIBERIA WHICH WERE DOMINATED AND CONTROLLED BY FOREIGN POWERS WOULD HAVE BEEN DELAYED FOR PERHAPS DECADES TO COME. LIBERIA, TOLBERT SAID, WAS A BEACON OF LIGHT AND HOPE FOR THOSE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES WHICH WERE AT ONE TIME MERELY "COLONIAL POSSESSIONS."

3. COMMENT: (A) I WAS VERY IMPRESSED BY THE SINCERITY AND CLARITY OF TOLBERT'S VIEWS AND I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT WE WILL HAVE AN UNUSUAL OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE DEMONSTRATIONS OF OUR CONTINUING INTEREST IN LIBERIA AND RENEWED INTEREST IN AFRICA BY MAKING THE TOLBERT STATE VISIT A HIGHLIGHT OF THE BICENTENNIAL YEAR.

(B) I RECOGNIZE THAT THE ABOVE HAS BEEN SAID MANY TIMES AND IS WELL-KNOWN TO THE DEPT BUT PRESIDENT TOLBERT SEEMS TO BE BECOMING MORE ANXIOUS AS THE DAYS APPROACH FOR THE BEGINNING OF THE VISIT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPT MAY WISH TO PASS THIS MESSAGE TO NSC DIRECTOR SCROWCROFT AND AMBASSADOR SCHAUFELE WITH SECDEL.
CARTER
UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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